

Description of a New Species of the Ant of the
Genus *Probolomyrmex* MAYR from Malaysia
(Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

By MASAHIRO TANAKA

Genus *Probolomyrmex* is one of the most interesting and rarest genera of ants. None of the species of this genus is well known. Fortunately I found a new species of *Probolomyrmex*, which is described below, in the Malaysian ant materials which Prof. R. YOSHI had kindly given to me.

I wish to offer my hearty thanks to Prof. R. YOSHI for his kind assistance and facilities, and also to Dr. T. OKUTANI and Mr. M. OHKURA for their faithful advices.

Probolomyrmex watanabei sp. nov. ✓✓

Holotype worker;

Head with somewhat convex genal border and shallowly concave occipital border, posterolateral corner rounded, anteromedian structure well agrees with the generic character. Antennal scape relatively long, slightly failing to reach the median occipital border. Funicular joints, except the basal and the terminal, more or less broader than long; the basal joint about one-fifth longer than broad, and the terminal joint almost as long as the three preceding ones together. Mandible small, elongate-triangular, with an acute apical tooth followed by a series of seven denticles, distal one of which is slightly enlarged. Labrum bilobed, with some (probably six, one of which is lost) clavate setae on the anterior surface, and with spine-like ones on the distal border. Maxillary palpus 4-segmented, the segments I-III nodiform, subequal in breadth, the segment IV (terminal) elongate, bulged medially and almost as long as the segments II & III together. Labial palpus 2-segmented, elongate and rather narrow, the segment I slightly arching and the segment II resembling in the shape to the maxillary segment IV. Relative length (width) of the segments of each maxillary and labial palpus as follow; 6.5 (4), 7 (4), 5.5 (4), 13 (3), and 8 (2.5), 16 (3). Labial and maxillary palpi with neither seta nor sensilla except the two spine-like setulae on the maxillary segment I, just as shown in the fig. 6. Eyeless. Mesosoma, viewed from above, shallowly constricted between the pronotum and the mesonotum; pronotum rounded, much broader than the mesonotum,

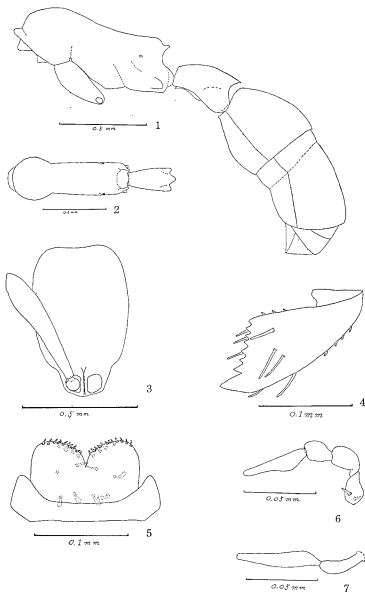
mesonotum and propodeum with subparallel sides. Mesosomal dorsum in profile shallowly but distinctly concave from the summit of the promesonotal convex dorsum to the propodeal dorsum. Mesosomal sutures absent on the dorsal surface and obsolescent on the lateral surface. Declivitous face of the propodeum strongly concave, marked off on each lateral border by a low marginate carina, which is terminating dorsally in a distinct propodeal spine. Petiole slender, higher and broader posteriorly than anteriorly, dorsal profile arching, median posterodorsal border remarkably protruding just as shown in the figs. 1 & 2; posterior surface strongly concave, marked off on each lateral border by a low obtuse carina. Subpetiolar process reduced as shown in the fig. 1. Gaster comparatively thick; its maximum width in dorsal view about 0.38 mm.

Fine shagreening punctures, about 0.005 mm. in diameter, well developed on everywhere except antennae and legs. Larger overlying punctures distinct, about 0.015-0.030 mm. in diameter, a little smaller and dense on the head, larger and dense on the both dorsal and lateral surfaces of the mesosoma and on the petiole, smaller and rather sparse on the gastric segments I & II, and reduced on other parts. Bristles very few, some stout ones on the mandibles, and a few spine-like ones about the cloacal orifice. Pubescence very minute, extremely dense on everywhere, especially on the antennae. Body entirely brownish to blackish red, opaque to subopaque; antennae, legs and gastric segments III-V somewhat yellowish, also opaque to subopaque.

Measurements and indices as follow (see TAYLOR, R. W., 1965, Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond., vol. 117, p. 351; or TAYLOR, 1967, Pac. Ins. Mon., vol. 13, p. 17); Head Length, 0.64 mm.; Head Width, 0.42 mm.; Scape Length, 0.55 mm.; Weber's Length of Mesosoma, 0.92 mm.; Pronotal Width, 0.34 mm.; Dorsal Petiole Width, 0.18 mm.; Petiole Height, 0.23 mm.; Petiolar Node Length, 0.36 mm.; Cephalic Index, 66; Scape Index, 131; Petiolar Node Index, 53; Lateral Petiolar Index, 156.

The unique holotype worker was collected by Dr. HIROYUKI WATANABE at Pasoh Forest, Malaysia, on 15 Jan. 1972; preserved in the collection of the author (Number of Specimen; No. 2509).

This new species is probably most related to *Probolomyrmex dammermani* WHEELER and also resembling to *Probolomyrmex angusticeps* M. R. SMITH, but can be distinguished from *dammermani* by the both relatively and absolutely longer antennal scapes and the relatively slender petiole (SL, 0.55 mm.; SI, 131; PNI, 53; LPI, 156, opposed to 0.42 mm.; 103; 55-58; 115-120, respectively in *dammermani* after TAYLOR, 1965) and also by the distinct propodeal spines, and distinguished from *angusticeps* by the segmental proportions of the labial and the maxillary palpi, also by the shorter body and both relatively and absolutely shorter antennal scapes (HL, 0.64 mm.; WL, 0.92 mm.; PNL, 0.36 mm.; SL, 0.55 mm.; SI, 131; opposed to 0.76-0.80 mm.; 1.12-1.17 mm.; 0.44-0.46 mm.; 0.61-0.64 mm.; 135-140, respectively in *angusticeps* after TAYLOR, 1965).



(M. TANAKA del.)

Explanation of Plate 3.

Figs. 1-7; *Probolomyrmex watanabei* sp. nov.

Fig. 1, Lateral view of mesosoma, petiole and gaster. Fig. 2, Dorsal view of mesosoma and petiole. Fig. 3, Dorsal view of head with right scape. Fig. 4, Frontal view of left mandible. Fig. 5, Labrum. Fig. 6, Maxillary palpus. Fig. 7, Labial palpus.

Long blind ant found in Iwate Pref.

メクラナガアリ岩手県に産す

田 中 将 宏

メクラナガアリ *Stenamma owstoni* WHEELER, 1906 は, "A revision of the genus *Stenamma* of Japan" (YASUMATSU et MURAKAMI, 1960) によれば, 本州 (中部地方以西) ・四国・九州及び中国大陸の一部から知られているが, 京都大学の吉井良三教授からいただいた標本の中に, 岩手県九戸の内間木洞付近で採集された本種を見出したので, ここに報告する。

本種が現在まで, どの程度採集されているかを正確に知っているわけではないが, 相当稀な種でもあり, おそらくこの報告が北限の記録となるものと思う。

1 worker, near the Uchimagi-do Cave, Kunohe, Iwate Pref., 7. Aug. 1965, leg. R. YOSHII.

なお, 吉井教授のご指摘によれば, 上記論文に記されている本種の採集地の多くが石灰岩地帯に位置し (内間木洞付近も), 即断はできないが或いは本種の分布が石灰岩と何らかの関係があるのではないかと, このことであつた。この点については今後の採集調査に期待したい。

末筆ながら, 貴重な助言とともに本種を含め数多くの標本をいただいた吉井教授に謝意を表す。

northern Honshu